

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 24-40, 43, 45-66, and 77, without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Before this amendment, claims 1-77 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-23, 41, 42, 44, and 67-76 stand allowed.

Claims 24-40, 43, 45-66, and 77 are canceled by this paper.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 24-40, 43, 45-66, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251 as allegedly attempting to recapture subject matter surrendered in the application to obtain the original patent, 5,657,600.

Claims 24, 25, 34-37, 39-40, 43, 45-49, 52, 53, 60-63, 65, 66, and 77 were additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent 4,884,382 to Horobin in view of U.S. Patent 1,071,467 to Savage.

Applicant continues to traverse the recapture rejection, which continues to be unfounded, and the newly minted obviousness rejection, which is equally unfounded. However, in light of the ten year pendency of this application and the Office's continued piecemeal handling of this application, Applicant has canceled all of the rejected claims to permit the allowed claims to promptly issue. As all of the rejected claims now have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections moot. The claim cancellations are made simply to expedite resolution of this application, and are made without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant expressly reserves its rights to present the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to for allegedly failing to show certain features of claims 45 and 46. Claims 45 and 46 are canceled by this paper, rendering the objection moot as to this application.

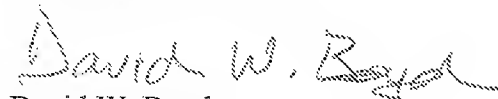
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested, particularly in light of the numerous and lengthy delays in the handling of this reissue application.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned representative David W. Boyd at 303-571-4000.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

Respectfully submitted,



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